

## Message Text

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46 41  
ACTION PM-07

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R 291402Z MAY 74  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0742  
INFO SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06633

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, IO, UK  
SUBJECT: SENATOR MANSFIELD ASKS FOR INFORMATION ON US/UK  
EXCHANGES ON DIEGO GARCIA

1. WHEN SENATOR MANSFIELD VISITED LONDON ON MAY 28, HE SHOWED A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA AND PARTICULARLY IN THE HISTORY OF US/UK CONSULTATIONS AND UNDERTAKINGS RELATED TO THE ISLAND. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO BE PROVIDED WITH A COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF ALL US/UK EXCHANGES ON DIEGO GARCIA (AND PRESUMABLY ON BRITISH INDIAN TERRITORY DISCUSSIONS AS THEY RELATED TO DIEGO GARCIA) FROM 1957 TO THE PRESENT. HE RECALLED THAT HE HAD FIRST HEARD OF THE U.S. NAVY'S INTEREST IN DIEGO GARCIA IN THE LATE 1950'S. HE IMPLIED THAT HE HAD MADE A REQUEST TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH FOR THIS INFORMATION BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR IF HE WAS REFERRING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. HE ASKED FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE EMBASSY IN FURNISHING THE DESIRED DATA.

2. WE GAVE THE SENATOR A BRIEF REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF US/UK ASPECTS OF THE DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION EMPHASIZING THAT THE PRESENT LABOR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON THE QUESTION PENDING ACTION BY THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE REQUIRED APPROPRIATIONS AND A FURTHER SPECIFIC APPROACH BY THE USG. WE DID NOT GIVE HIM  
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A HISTORY OF US/UK EXCHANGES. WE SAID THAT OUR RECORDS

DID NOT GO BACK MORE THAN A FEW YEARS, AND IN ANY CASE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY TO DETERMINE WHETHER SUCH A REVIEW SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN AND IF SO TO DO IT. WE UNDERTOOK TO REFER HIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY.

3. THE SENATOR INDICATED THAT WHILE THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE DIEGO GARCIA QUESTION, THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS A BROAD INTEREST IN IT, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IMPLICATIONS. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH MIGHT HAVE ENTERED INTO FAR REACHING COMMITMENTS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN ADVANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON FUNDING. IN THIS CONNECTION HE CITED UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED BY THE DEPUTY CINCER WITH THE SPANISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES A FEW YEARS AGO REGARDING U.S. BASES IN SPAIN AND AN IMPLIED U.S. POLITICAL COMMITMENT TO DEFEND SPAIN.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, MILITARY BASES, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, COMMITTEES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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